

**JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY JAA:
EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the District complies with the applicable laws regarding discrimination on the basis of disability. This concept of equal educational opportunity is a guide in making decisions relating to school facilities, employment or personnel, selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum, and regulations affecting students.

II. SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. Under Section 504, a person with a disability is anyone who:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, seeing, speaking, sitting, thinking, breathing, learning, interacting with others, working, reading, standing, lifting, bending, concentrating, manual tasks, and caring for one's self;
2. Has a record of such impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such impairment.

An "impairment" as used under the section 504 is defined as any disability, long-term illness, or various disorder that substantially reduces or lessens a student's ability to access learning in the education setting because of learning-, behavior-, or health-related condition. They may include conditions such as specific learning disabilities, diabetes, epilepsy, allergies, and hidden disabilities.

The Jackson Public School District acknowledges its responsibility under Section 504 to prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities in admission to or access to or treatment in its programs and activities to the extent provided by law. Discrimination against any person with a disability will not knowingly be permitted in any program or practice of the District.

III. EVALUATION UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Under Section 504, the District will identify, evaluate, and provide an appropriate public education to students with disabilities within the meaning of Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

IV. PARENTAL RIGHTS

If the parent or guardian disagrees with the determination made by school personnel of the District, he or she has a right to a hearing before an impartial hearing officer.

**SOURCE: JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
LEGAL REF.: CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATIONAL
AMENDMENTS OF 1972; SECTIONS 503 & 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF
1973; 45 CFR PART 84; BROWN v. BOARD EDUCATION, 347 U.S. 483 (1954)**

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